House in Makaram 1111, requesting them to extend the Agricultural Moratorium?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government)*.—No such memorial has been received by Government.

35. Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen *(Kattur)*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any steps on the representation made by a majority of non-official Members of this House in Makaram 1111, to extend the period of Agricultural Moratorium?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government)*.—The Member is referred to the answer to Question No. 34.

Economic Depression—relief measures.

36. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur)*.—Will the Government state (a) the steps they have taken in furtherence of their finding, 'On account of the prevailing depression, the agriculturists in the State find it difficult to pay interest on debt incurred by them before the depression began. Owing to the precipitous fall of agricultural prices, debts incurred by Agriculturists five or more years ago on the security of their lands have now been increased by anything up to 300 per cent in term of agricultural commodities . . . . . ' contained in the Diwan's Proceedings dated 2nd March 1934, L.-6-3309/1109;

(b) what more the Government intend to do in the matter?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—(a) Some of the more important of the steps taken are the following:—

1. Generous remissions in the land revenue payable by agriculturists.

2. Provision for easy credit to rural debtors—

   (a) under the special loan scheme and

   (b) through the agency of the Land Mortgage Bank.

3. Grant of time by courts for payment of decree-debts in some cases enabling judgment-debtors to pay even in instalments.

4. Moratorium for a period to give breathing time to the debtors of this State to pay up debts.

5. Limiting of interest in future to 12 per cent.

6. Relief to the agriculturist-debtors who happen to be Kuri subscribers in various forms.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

7. Lowering of the commutation rate of paddy in the case of Sirkar Devaswam tenants and the grant of substantial concession to tenants of the Estates under Sirkar management.

(b) Government will watch the result of the measures already taken before proceeding further.

Scheme to scale down Agricultural debts—resolution regarding.

37. Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen *(Kattur).*—Will the Government state why they have not carried out the resolution contained in the resolution passed by this House on the 20th of February 1934, viz., "This Council recommends to the Government to formulate a scheme to scale down agricultural debts in proportion to the fall in prices" ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—The resolution was not accepted by the Government for reasons explained in Diwan's Proceedings dated 5th April 1934, No. D.-Dis. 9806/1109, published on pages 632—633 in Part I of the Gazette, dated 7th April 1934.

Land Revenue Assessment—reduction in rates.

38. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*— Adverting to paragraph 8 of the Report of the Economic Depression Relief Measures Enquiry Committee, appointed by the Cochin Government in 1109, and particularly to the passage therein "The supplementary measures proposed by him were reduction of land revenue . . . . . We also agree that unless supplemented by other measures of a substantial character, mere reduction of interest rates may not bring any appreciable relief to the agriculturists", will the Government state:—

(a) how they have justified their suspension of their system of occasional remissions in land revenue as against the said recommendation for a permanent reduction in the rates of our land revenue;

(b) whether they have realised the fact that the prospects of a fall in the land revenue collections, in case the reduction is effected, can very much be minimised by the introduction of a graded system of reduction by which the reduction need be extended to only deserving cadres among our agriculturists?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—(a) No attempt at justification was, or is necessary, because there is no

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly